

# Newslines

The Newsletter of the Cambridge Council on Aging

806 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139 Office: (617) 349-6220 Senior Center: (617) 349-6060 North Cambridge Senior Center (617) 349-6320

## **FEBRUARY**

February is National Heart Month and as stated in the Department of Health and Human Services, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's web sight: <a href="www.nhlbi.nih.gov">www.nhlbi.nih.gov</a> it's vital that everyone learn the warning signs of a heart attack.

#### **Inside**



Prescription Advantage will have an open enrollment in the Spring of 2006. Be on the Look-out.

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Our appreciation to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs for funds to support our Newslines publication.

Chest discomfort. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center
of the chest that lasts for more than a few minutes, or goes away and
comes back. The discomfort can feel like uncomfortable pressure,
squeezing, fullness, or pain.

- **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach.
- Shortness of breath. Often comes along with chest discomfort. But it also can occur before chest discomfort.
- Other symptoms. May include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, or light-headedness.

Heart attacks and stroke are life-and-death emergencies—every second counts. Learn the sign-but remember: Even if you are not sure it's a heart attack, you should call 9-1-1 and have it checked out. This can save your life or the life of a loved one.



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# Medicare Modernization Act Medicare Part D – Prescription Drug Coverage Updates

The Cambridge Council On Aging SHINE program can be reached at (617) 349-6220 weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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- 1) MEDICARE PART D ENROLLMENT FAIR SPECIAL THANK YOU
- 2) PRESCRIPTION ADVANTAGE

  <u>SPRING 2006</u>

  <u>SPECIAL OPEN ENROLLMENT</u>

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## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Cambridge Council on Aging and the Cambridge Council On Aging's SHINE program recently had a Medicare Part D Enrollment Fair which was a great success. The dedication of our volunteers made this project a major success. We couldn't have accomplished what we did without you. Please forgive me for not mentioning names. There are so many of you to thank that we don't want to leave anyone out. *Caryn Eichenbaum Susan Pacheco, Eileen Ginnetty* 

## SPECIAL THANK YOU'S go out to:

Cambridge City Employees and local Social Service agency staff who took time out from their busy schedules to be trained in order to volunteer at our Medicare Part D Enrollment Fair

Members of the MIS department who assisted with computer needs assessments. And to staff for hanging out with us to provide technical support during the Enrollment Fairs.

City Employees who have graciously donated the use of their lap top computers for COA staff to use both during the Enrollment Fair and on a limited basis during the initial program roll out.

A special member of the Cambridge Hospital Pharmacy Department for also hanging out with us. You helped clarify many mysteries associated with medication names, medication formularies, and Part D plan enrollment.

Thank you All Again.

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!!

Medicare Part D Initial Enrollment continues through May 15, 2006. Your plan benefits will begin the beginning of the month after you apply.

RESCRIPTION ADVANTAGE (DA)

# PRESCRIPTION ADVANTAGE (PA) 2006 OPEN ENROLLMENT

- ✓ MARCH 15, 2006 TO APRIL 28, 2006
- ✓ EFFECTIVE DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED
- ✓ MARCH NEWSLINES ISSUE WILL HAVE MORE OFFICIAL DETAILS

# Why would you be interested in joining Prescription Advantage?

Prescription Advantage is changing to work together with the new Medicare prescription drug coverage that began on January 1, 2006. It is now a secondary payer providing FINANCIAL assistance to supplement Medicare Part D coverage.

#### Who Is Eligible?

# Anyone over age 65 who is <u>enrolled in a</u> <u>Medicare Part D Drug Plan</u> and not on

**MassHealth.** You must meet income guidelines, up to \$47,850 for a single person and \$64,150 for a couple. If you are turning 65 in 2006, or new to Massachusetts you qualify for a different enrollment period. Please contact SHINE for details and enrollment information.

#### **How Will This Work?**

Depending upon your gross annual income, Financial Assistance may include help paying:

- Towards the monthly Part D premium if enrolled in a Part D basic plan.
- Medication Co-payments if your Part D plan has a deductible or if you reach the Donut Hole.
- ➤ Assistance paying for medications not covered by Medicare Benzodiazepines.
- ➤ Lower Out of Pocket Spending Limit.



#### **Help for Caregivers**

The number of individuals providing care for family or friends with illnesses or disabilities is growing rapidly.

According to the National Family Caregiver Alliance, nearly 7 million people in the United States provide care to persons age 65 and over who need assistance with everyday activities. Their estimate of the number of people caring for adults over the age of 20 with disabilities, chronic illness or dementia exceeds 50 million. The organization reports that 78% of adults who need long-term care depend exclusively on their family and friends, and receive their care at home.

"Caregiving can be a very rewarding activity," said John O'Neill, Executive Director of Somerville Cambridge Elder Services. "However, caregivers also face many challenges that can negatively impact their health, finances, and stress level."

According to O'Neill, caregivers may not know about services that are available to help them or may be reticent to accept help. "Assistance is available, but often caregivers don't think they can qualify for these services, or they feel that somehow it is their responsibility to provide all of the care," said O'Neill.

However, when caregivers are able to access outside assistance, they often find that their quality of life is greatly improved and that the relationship with the person for whom they are caring is enhanced, noted O'Neill.

"One important resource that is often overlooked is the state's Respite Program," said O'Neill. "The state-funded Respite Program, which offers caregiver relief, is actually available to people of all income levels on a sliding fee scale, and offers a wealth of services such as case management, adult day programs, and assistance with personal care."

Other services offered by the program include food shopping, home safety adaptations, housekeeping, laundry, meal preparation, meals-on-wheels, memory disorder consultation, personal emergency response systems, supervision/companionship, and transportation for medical appointments.

To qualify for the respite service, the care recipient must be 60 years or older (younger care recipients may be eligible if there is a Memory Disorder). The care recipient must need assistance with basic activities of daily living and the caregiver must be actively involved in overseeing care. Long distance caregivers may also qualify. Caregivers may be family members, friends, or partners.

For more information about the Respite Program and caregiver services, call the Somerville Cambridge Elder Services Aging Information Center at 617-628-2601 ext. 3151. Information is also available at www.eldercare.org.



#### "Heart Felt" Gains

By Karen A Wolf, APRN, BC, PhD Nurse Pracitioner Oliver Farnum Senior Health Center Cambridge Health Alliance

In health care the benefits of prevention are most clear with heart disease. Some forty years ago patients would simply die of heart disease. Prior to the 1960's, lack of medical insurance and of effective treatments was common. My grandfather, like many of his generation, had a heart attack. His high blood pressure and probable high cholesterol had escaped medical notice. On a cold January day my grandfather was felled shoveling a "window-making" snow. Today, health care offers early screening and effective treatment to help reduce heart disease. the ability to prevent most heart disease from developing into heart failure. Treating high blood pressure and reducing cholesterol have provided important gains, but the progress offered by medical advances has limitations. There is need to look beyond the "simple" fix of medications to what our behaviors can provide. Many of the risk factors for heart disease cannot be fixed or reduced by medications alone. It is now clear that the gains of the future will come from behavior change. Challenges for the future include:

1. Stopping the epidemic of obesity. Obesity is both a

community problem and a personal challenge. Exercise and diet are the solutions. Eating less fat and carbohydrates in exchange for more vegetables, fiber and fruit is key. For example, recent studies suggest that folic acid, found in green and leafy vegetables is very important to protect our hearts! We need to encourage our children and grandchildren to make changes in diet as well. Let's encourage our family, friends and neighbors to work for a slimmer, healthier future!.....

- 2. Putting an end to the sedentary life style trends or "couch potato syndrome".

  Exercise adds to heart muscle strength as well as weight loss. We should set a goal of doing 30 minutes of exercise a day. This includes the cumulative effects of walking, dancing, exercise class, and swimming. Easy efforts come from taking the stairs instead of riding the elevator, or simply walking a little further to shop or visit a friend.
- 3. Stemming the rise of tobacco use. While on the decline for older adults, tobacco use is rising for some younger folks. Second-hand smoke is a risk to our hearts and lungs. Let's encourage our friends, family and neighbors to stop smoking. Suggest that they

- talk with their health care provider or local public health department about getting help for smoking cessation.
- 4. Tackling diabetes early.
  Diabetes is a major
  contributor to heart disease.
  Research shows that we can
  identify risk for developing
  diabetes in many people, and
  that by close attention to diet,
  exercise and weight control,
  the onset of diabetes can be
  delayed.
- 5. Curb stress-make room for peace in your daily life. The fast-paced world we live in adds to the tension and affects our bodies. Research shows that learning to relax through meditation, prayer or other "relaxation response" methods, can improve blood pressure and heart functioning.
- 6. Continue to learn and be a self advocate. Be open to new knowledge. Staying abreast of advances in medicine can be a challenge. Read and listen to community lectures. Advocate for yourself by asking questions of your health care provider.
  - Know your numbers (blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose),
    - Know your medications (name, dose, purpose for taking and side effects)
    - Keep a record of your health care information and stay in charge!

Come to our lecture, "What's New In Heart Disease Management," with Ann Lindsay, Nurse Clinician, Cambridge Health Alliance, Thursday, February 23 from 1:00-3:00 at the Citywide Senior Center. 617.349.6060

The Sobriety Support Group at the Citywide Senior Center meets on the lst and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 10-11:30.

Please welcome our new Substance Abuse Counselor, Eileen Rush. She may be reached at 617.349.6222.

To schedule VITA Income Tax Assistance at the North Cambridge Senior Center, 2050 Mass. Avenue, Cambridge, call 617.349.6320

Thursdays: Starting 2/16/06 through 4/7/06.



Bowling League Wednesdays February 8 & 22 9:15-12:15

**Call (617) 349-6060 for Information** 

League members meet at the Citywide Senior Center 806 Mass. Avenue Cambridge, MA

New bowlers welcome!

# FEBRUARY EVENTS AT OUR CENTERS

### THE CITYWIDE SENIOR CENTER

### THE NORTH CAMBRIDGE SENIOR

806 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617) 349-6060 2050 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617) 349-6320

www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2

Town Meeting 12-1	9	
S	Fridays	Pet Therapy Days
· ·		With Brandy 9-4
51 Auvisory Citt 1:30-3	•	60 Minutes-Discussion
D. P. 0.12		Group 10:30-11:30
C	- '	-
· ·	•	Birthday Party
· •	February 8	2:30-3:30
Ticket Required		
Chinese New Year 11-3	Monday	Book Review 9:45-10:45
\$5 Ticket Required	February 13	Open Forum 12-1
Lunchtime with Dr.	Tuesdays	Social Services 10-2
	· ·	Call 617.349-6320 for
0 02100210 22 2	& 28	an appointment
Men's Breakfast 9-10	Tuesday	Valentine Pizza Party
	•	\$3 Ticket Required
	•	Men's Breakfast at
		Citywide Senior Center
· ·		9-10
President's Day	Thursdays	VITA Income Tax
Open for Breakfast &	February 16 & 23	Assistance 2-5
Lunch 8:30-1	Ĭ	Appointment Needed
Health & Wellness Talk		
"What's New in Heart		
Disease Management"1-3		
Afternoon Tea		
1-2		
		107 107 107
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	Chinese New Year 11-3 \$5 Ticket Required Lunchtime with Dr. Conant 12-1  Men's Breakfast 9-10 Food served until 9:30 Pool Tournament 10-1 Black History Celebration 1-2:30  President's Day Open for Breakfast & Lunch 8:30-1  Health & Wellness Talk "What's New in Heart Disease Management"1-3 Afternoon Tea	Birthday Party 1-2 Sr Advisory Cmt 1:30-3  Bowling 9-12  Valentine's Day Party Cruise Theme12:30-3 \$4 Ticket Required  Chinese New Year 11-3 \$5 Ticket Required  Lunchtime with Dr. Conant 12-1  Monday February 8  Tuesday February 13  Tuesdays February 7, 14, 21 & 28  Men's Breakfast 9-10 Food served until 9:30  Pool Tournament 10-1 Black History Celebration 1-2:30  President's Day Open for Breakfast & Lunch 8:30-1  Health & Wellness Talk "What's New in Heart Disease Management"1-3  Afternoon Tea

**THURSDAY** 

23. Grandet An Aksion 9-2

"What's New in Heart Disease

**Computer Lab** 9:30-11:30

8:30-9:30

8:30-1

10-11

11:30-12:15

Ceramics 9:30-12

**Health & Wellness** 

Management" 1-3

**Breakfast** 

**Billiards** 

Yoga

Lunch

**Saturday Schedule** 

Exercise Class 10-11

WEDNESDAY

**MONDAY** 

Beano 1:30-3

**27.** Qi Gong 9-10

Classic Movie 1-3

Painting 1:30-3

Beano 1:30-3

Clay Sculpture 10-12

Senior Singers 10-11:30

Presidents' Day

**Holiday** 

Center Open for Breakfast and

Lunch 8:30 - 1:00

Cards, Board Games 9-11:30

**TUESDAY** 

Movie 1:15-3:15

Chair Yoga 10-11

Latino Group 1-2

Movie 1:15-3:15

Chair Yoga 10-11

ESL-IV 10:30-12

Latino Group 1-2

Movie 1:15-3:15

Book Review 12:30-1

**28.** ESL-II 9:30-10:30

African American Seniors 1-2:30

**Blood Pressure Screening 1:30-2** 

ESL-IV

**21.**ESL II 9:30-10:30

10:30-12

**FRIDAY** 

**24.** Qi Gong 9-10

Afternoon Tea 1-2

ESL Chinese 9-10:30

Strength Building 10-11

Chinese Movie 10:30-12

Awareness/Movement 9:30-10:30

Ballroom Dancing 1-3/Beano 1:30-3

		1. Chinese/English Singers 9:45-11 Tai Chi Level I –12-1 Crafts/Social Club 1-3 Tai Chi Level II- 1:15-2:15 Beano 1:30-3	2. Grandet An Aksion 9-2 Ceramics 9:30-12 Exercise Class 10-11 Town Meeting 12-1 Birthday Party 1-2 Senior Advisory Committee 1:30-3	3. Qi Gong 9-10 ESL Chinese 9-10:30 Awareness/Movement 9:30-10:30 Strength Building 10-11 Chinese Movie 10:30-12 Ballroom Dancing 1-3 Afternoon Tea 1-2 Beano 1:30-3
6. Qi Gong 9-10 Cards, Board Games 9-11:30 Clay Sculpture 10-12 Senior Singers 10-11:30 Classic Movie 1-3 Painting 1:30-3 Beano 1:30-3	7. ESL II 9:30-10:30 Chair Yoga 10-11 ESL-IV 10:30-12 Senior Safety 12:30-1:30 Latino Group 1-2 Movie 1:15-3:15	8. Chinese/English Singers 9:45-12 Tai Chi Level I –12-1 Crafts/Social Club 1-3 Tai Chi Level II- 1:15-2:15 Beano 1:30-3	9. Grandet An Aksion 9-2 Ceramics 9:30-12 Exercise Class 10-11 Valentine's Day Party 12:30-3 Cruise Theme Tickets Required	10. Qi Gong 9-10 ESL Chinese 9-10:30 Strength Building 10-11 Chinese New Year 11-3 Tickets Required \$5 Beano 1:30-3
13. Qi Gong 9-10 Cards, Board Games 9-11:30 Clay Sculpture 10-12 Senior Singers 10-11:30 MSAC 1-2 Classic Movie 1-3 Painting 1:30-3	14. ESL II 9:30-10:30 Chair Yoga 10-11 ESL-IV 10:30-12 Dr. Conant-Lunchtime Chat 12-1 Latino Group 1-2 African American Seniors 1-2:30 Blood Pressure Screening 1-2	15. Men's Breakfast 9-11 Bowling 9-12 Chinese/English Singers 9:45-12 Tai Chi Level I –12-1 Crafts/Social Club 1-3 Tai Chi Level II- 1:15-2:15 Beano 1:30-3	16. Grandet An Aksion 9-2 Ceramics 9:30-12 Exercise Class 10-11 Pool Tournment 10-1 Black History Celebration 1-2:30	17. QI Gong 9-10 ESL Chinese 9-10:30 Awareness/Movement 9:30-10:30 Strength Building 10-11 Chinese Movie 10:30-12 Cooking with Julie 1-2 Ballroom Dancing 1-3/Beano 1:30-3

To sign up for lunch call one day in advance 616. 349.6060. Lunch time is from 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. The suggested donation is \$1.50 Food Pantry Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 12-2 p.m.

**22.** Bowling 9-12

Beano 1:30-3

Tai Chi Level I –12-1

Crafts/Social Club 1-3

Tai Chi Level II- 1:15-2:15

10-11 a.m. \$2

Chinese/English Singers 9:45-12

**Gentle Chair Yoga** 

**Tuesdays & Saturdays** 

	Advisory Committee Rae Hamilton Daphne Luscap Diana Moscardini Ellie Stevenson	1. Stretch/Exercise 11-12 Lunch 11:30-12:30 WOW 12:30-2 Movie 2-3:30	2. Bridge 9-12 Walnut St Group 10-1 Lunch 11:30-12:30 Senior Safety 1-2 Yoga 3-4	3. Pet Therapy 9-4 Line Dancing 10:30-11:30 Lunch 11:30-12:30 Whist 1-4
6. Walking Club 10:20-12 60 Minutes-Discussion Group 10:30-11:30 Spanish Class 11-12 Lunch 11:30-12:30 Bingo 1-3	7. Bridge 9-12 Social Services 10-2 Lunch 11:30-12:30 Quilting 1-3 Crochet/Knitting 1-3	8. Stretch/Exercise 11-12 Lunch 11:30-12:30 WOW 12:30-2 Birthday Party 2:30-3:30	9. Bridge 9-12 Walnut St Group 10-1 Lunch 11:30-12:30 Yoga 3-4	10. Line Dancing 10:30-11:30 Lunch 11:30-12:30 Whist 1-4
13. Walking Club 10:20-12 Book Review 9:45-10:45 60 Minutes-Discussion Group 10:30-11:30 Open Forum 12:00 Noon Spanish Class 11-12 Lunch 11:30-12:30/Bingo 1-3	14. Bridge 9-12 Social Services 10-2 Lunch 11:30-12:30 Quilting 1-3 Crochet/Knitting 1-3 <u>Valentine's Day Pizza Party</u> 2:30-4:30	15. Stretch/Exercise 11-12 Lunch 11:30-12:30 WOW 12:30-2 Movie 2-3:30	16. Bridge 9-12 Walnut St Group 10-1 Lunch 11:30-12:30 VITA Tax Assistance 2-5* Yoga 3-4	17. Pet Therapy 9-4 Line Dancing 10:30-11:30 Lunch 11:30-12:30 Whist 1-4
20.  President's Day Center Closed	21. Bridge 9-12 Social Services 10-2 Lunch 11:30-12:30 Quilting 1-3 Crochet/Knitting 1-3 Advisory Committee 3-4	22. Lunch 11:30-12:30 WOW 12:30-2 Movie 2-3:30	23. Bridge 9-12 Walnut St Group 10-1 Lunch 11:30-12:30 VITA Tax Assitance 2-5* Yoga 3-4	24. Line Dancing 10:30-11:30 Lunch 11:30-12:30 Whist 1-4
27. Walking Club 10:20-12 60 Minutes-Discussion Group 10:30-11:30 Spanish Class 11-12 Lunch 11:30-12:30 Bingo 1-3	28. Bridge 9-12 Social Services 10-2 Lunch 11:30-12:30 Quilting 1-3 Crochet/Knitting 1-3	The Cambridge Council On Aging 617.349.6220		

To sign up for lunch, call one day in advance 617.349.6320. Lunch hour is from 11:30-12:30. The suggested donation is \$1.50 \*Call 617.349.6320 to schedule VITA Income Tax Assistance

# Our popular Computer classes begin each month. Register NOW for the Basics. Classes are \$12.00 for the series. It's fun, and easy when you know how. February/March 2006 already!

There will be no classes scheduled for February 2006.
Classes begin again in March 2006.
Lab hours will remain the same.
See other side.

Register for
March 2006 Computer
Classes
in the warm and cozy
Cambridge City Wide
Senior Center.

Typing gone rusty?
Play games with
Mavis Beacon
Teaches Typing.
Mavis is available on
Computers#2 and #3.
A warm and cozy
monitor will show you
how.

**COMPUTER BASICS** in four consecutive weeks, (each class is 1-½ hours) you will make the mouse your friend, type, insert a graphic, save, and print a letter, and make an envelope or labels. Classes are \$3.00/class or \$12.00 for the series.

MORE COMPUTER BASICS in four consecutive weeks, (each class is 1-½ hours) perfect your formatting skills. Are you doing a newsletter? Resume? This is the class for you.

INTERNET BASICS in four consecutive weeks, (each class is 1-½ hours) you will create an e-mail account, E-mail your friends, and surf the WORLDWIDE WEB. Classes are \$3.00/class or \$12.00 for the series. Computer Basics is highly recommended.

using attachments In four consecutive weeks, (each class is 1-½ hours) you will take pictures with the Department's Digital Camera, work with images, and send them as attachments in e-mails. Classes are \$3.00/class or \$12.00 for the series. A (free) Yahoo e-mail account is essential.

Cambridge Citywide Senior Center 806 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge MA 02139 PH: 1-617-349-6060 X6198 eflo1@yahoo.com

# Our popular Computer classes begin each month. Register NOW for the Basics. Classes are \$12.00 for the series. It's fun, and easy when you know how. February/March 2006 already!

February 2006	T 1/31	W 2/1	TH 2/2	F 2/3	S 2/4
1 021 441 7 2000	Computer Lovers:		/_	, 0	0 = 7 .
Our computers	I'm in California.		Joy and	February	Computer Lab
are available	Eve	Computer Lab	Laughter	Computer Lab	9:30-11:30
on Saturdays		TBA	Build the	TBA	
from	Computer Lab	Call first	Immune	Call first	Maurice
9:30-11:30	1:00-3:00	617-349-6060	System.		Anderson
	Joe Galvin		,		
M 2/6	T 2/7	W 2/8	TH 2/9	F 2/10	S 2/11
Computer Lab	Computer Lab	Computer Lab	Practice your	February	Computer Lab
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CENTER IS	available	available	cancelled if	Basics	Computer Lab
CLOSED.	9:00-12:00	9:00-12:00	there's no	9:00-10:30	9:30-11:30
НАРРУ	Eve Flochild	Eve Flochild	school in	10:30-12:00 Eve Flochild	Alicia
BIRTHDAY	Computer Lab 1:00-3:00	Computer Lab 1:00- 4:30	Cambridge. Don't take	Computer Lab	Johnson
GEORGE!	Joe Galvin	Eve Flochild	chances with	1:00-4:30	JUHISUH
GEORGE!	JUE Galvill	LVE FIOCIIII	snow and ice.	Eve Flochild	
			SHOW AND ICE.	EVE FIOCIIIU	
M 2/26	T 2/27	W 2/28	REGISTER	MARCH	ALREADY!
IVI 2/20	1 2/21	VV 2/28	NOW	IVIAKCH	ALKEADY!
			INOV		

Cambridge Citywide Senior Center 806 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge MA 02139 PH: 1-617-349-6060 X6198 eflo1@yahoo.com



# PROGRAM AND STAFF Executive Director, Eileen Ginnetty

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Santora Cooper

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#### **Food Pantry Assistanat**

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Department of Public Works

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Coordinator

Cambridge Council on Aging 806 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, MA 02139